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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/578,649	05/09/2006	Johan Leopold Victoria Hendrix	NL 031377	1795
24737	7590	04/28/2009	EXAMINER	
PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS			VU, DAVID HUNG	
P.O. BOX 3001				
BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2821	
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			04/28/2009	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/578,649	HENDRIX, JOHAN LEOPOLD VICTORINA	
Examiner		Art Unit	
David Hung Vu		2821	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 February 2009.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-31 and 33-39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-14, 16-18, 24-31, 33-34, 36-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 15, 19-23, 35, 39 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 28-31,33, 36, and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 28, the recitation "...the driver..." renders the claim indefinite as lacking the strict antecedent basis since a driver was not recited earlier.

Claim 36, the recitation "...the position detector..." renders the claim indefinite as lacking the strict antecedent basis since a position detector was not recited earlier.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-8,10-14,16-18, and 24-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schafer et al (hereinafter Schafer), US Pat No 5,113,085.

Schafer discloses the claimed invention including current generating means including source 14 for generating a current; commutating means for receiving the current, and having an output for connecting to a lamp 1, the commutating means 3-10 being arranged for commutating the current with a duty cycle differing from 50% (ratio of positive current for positive duration and negative current for negative duration from 0-t4) and a current ratio (ratio of positive and negative of current I1) differing from 1, see, for example, abstract, figures 1-3, columns 4-5, column 6, lines 19+, column 7.

Regarding claim 25, the commutating means 3-10 being arranged for maintaining the average current intensity equal to zero.

Regarding claim 27, the commutating means 3-10 being arranged for maintaining the average current intensity constant.

Regarding claim 28, the driver 7-10 comprises a control input for receiving a control signal, and wherein the driver is responsive to a control signal received at its control input to set the combination of duty cycle (D) and current ratio (R) accordingly.

The claimed method is inherent in the Schafer reference.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 9, 26-29, and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schafer.

Schafer as discussed from the above, essentially discloses the claimed invention but fails to explicitly disclose a memory. However, employing a memory would have been considered obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. It would have been considered obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have employed a memory; thus, data storage for lamp current would have been implemented.

Regarding claims 26 and 29, it would have been considered obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have arranged the commutating means to commutate current with different duty cycle for the purpose of regulating lamp. The provision for a mode selection also would have been considered obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art for the purpose of setting different control levels for the driving device.

Regarding claim 34, selecting a duty cycle of 50% during a start phase also would have been considered obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art because where a general condition has been disclosed in the art discovering an effective variable would only involve routine experimentation.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 15,19-23, and 35 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 30-31, 33 and 36-39 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-39 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David Hung Vu whose telephone number is (571)272-1831. The examiner can normally be reached on 9am-5pm.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/David Hung Vu/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2821

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